

Leicester, April 22, 1853.

My dear Mr. Foster, Yours of the 18<sup>th</sup> is at hand. You answer mine under a misapprehension. A little more reflection, I think & certainly hope, will lead you to a different conclusion. I was sorry that I did not speak to you about Goodell's book, when you were in the office last week; but you came in unexpectedly, and the subject did not occur to me till you had gone; and you did not call again, I believe, before your return to West Brookfield. — You will not take it unkindly, I hope, if I say you are sometimes a little too hasty; I, <sup>who</sup> am often so, may speak of this fault, but am bound to judge it leniently in others; I do think it a fault. — Now for you to throw up your agency with us, on the ground you name, would surely not be doing a wise thing, — at least I firmly believe so, & I think I can show it to you. — Let me premise, that I hope you do not think so meanly of us, — indeed I am quite sure you cannot, — as to suppose we want you to resign, & take this way to lead you to it. We should regard it a loss to have you leave your work in connexion with our cause, & with our Society. ~~The testimony we have from abroad is strongly in your favour; and we~~ know, of ourselves, that you are a successful agent. So much for that. — If you are tired (not of the cause, but) of such steady hard work, — work less. If you cannot be so much from home, that is another point, — which you, not we, can decide. — But supposing (as I doubt not is the case) that you & we are mutually satisfied, & that nothing is "between us" but this book of Goodell's, let us come at once to that. You virtually dispute the opinion of those, who went through the long contest with New Organization, on the character of Goodell's book. You think there is nothing in it, to prevent our (I use the word our for brevity) selling & circulating it freely; and that, if it has some prejudices against the Old Organization, why — it is just what the Old Organization have against the New, — and so the account is balanced! Now, considering that you did not go through that contest, and cannot be supposed to have so intimate an acquaintance with it as those who did, ought you to be <sup>on the instant</sup> so sure on this point? I think an hour's candid talk with either Garrison, or Phillips, would lead you to an entirely different conclusion. — I have what



I deem the best reason for charging Goodell's "Slavery & Antislavery" with falsehood against the American Antislavery Society, its members & its operations. If this is so, is it consistent with either our duty to our principles, or with a decent self-respect, for us to be instrumental in giving currency to those falsehoods? I leave this willingly to your decision. And that there is this falsehood in the book, I am confident those can prove to you, who were parties in the transactions there commented on. —

As to the forgetting, & overlooking, & coming together, of which you speak, — no one knows, better than yourself, that to this end there must be mutual confidence, and no compromise of what we believe right & duty. — On honourable grounds we are not indisposed to union with anybody; we have gotten an infidel and fanatical name, because we would not set up a theological or a political creed for ourselves & our associates. And we are a handful, because we would not compromise the truth, for the sake of union and numbers. — Mr. Goodell has falsified important matters of Anti-slavery history. Let him see to that. Let it not be ours to aid in such a work, especially where he libels our cause and ourselves. — We may use his book for the good that is in it; and when we speak of it, should do justice to the good, and not fail to caution all against its evil. We have enough good books, which present just views of the cause, for our agents to circulate; but if we had not, that would be no justification for going into the sale of those which slander us, & give the lie to what our truest men & women, and our publications, have maintained for years.

I have made you no appointments after Upton till Lowell (May 1.) This was according to our understanding, — that you might rest. I may be away next Monday (25). Come in, if you can, and see me on Thursday, 28.

Yrs. truly,

(Signed) Wm. L. Chapin Jr